

KEOWEE COURIER.

"—TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW, AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN."

VOL. I.

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THE
KEOWEE COURIER,
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J. W. NORRIS, JR., } Editors.
E. M. KEITH, }

TERMS.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

(CONCLUDED.)

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature, I visited the Arsenals, and subsequently attended as many of the regimental reviews, in the parishes and upper districts, as my civil engagements would permit. I regret to acquaint you that I found the military condition of the State deplorably defective. Not only the ordinary means of defence, but measurably all the materials of war, were wanting. The martial ardor, too, which, it is admitted, distinguishes our people, seemed to be wanting, and the not unfrequent exhibitions of listlessness and indifference by the officers, as well as privates, plainly showed that the absence of exciting influences, was operating injuriously upon the true interests of the State.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary to assure you that South Carolina must, hereafter, exist as a military people. The history of our country, for the last ten years, affords abundant proof that, as long as the Union endures, there is to be no peace for the slaveholder. An eternal warfare against his rights of person and property, under the associated influence of the people and States of the North, and the central power, has been solemnly and deliberately decreed. For this reason, it is essential that the community, of which he is a member, should be prepared at any moment, for every emergency.

The measures which are best adapted to put the State in a condition of defence, to insure an efficient military organization, and to arouse the vigilance, the pride, and the energy of the citizen soldier, should indicate your path of duty at this time.

By a resolution of your last session, the Governor was required to increase the number of small arms in the Arsenals, to 12,000, fit for service and not to permit a reduction below it, by ordinary issues. To carry into effect this important resolution, the Legislature neglected to put one dollar at my disposal. Independent of \$5000 dollars for the purchase and distribution of arms, and \$15,000, the amount that was in the Treasury, to the credit of the fund, for the same object, under the act of '33, I have expended and contracted to pay for muskets, rifles, swords, and musket accoutrements, \$10,000 of the appropriation for 'military contingencies.'

Having received from the War Department, the quota of this State, for '47, '48, and the present year, there have been deposited in the Arsenals, acquired from that source, and by purchase, since the commencement of my administration, the number and character of arms specified in exhibit A.

The cleaned muskets, of which the number is, proportionally, very large, and those that have always been in good order, show the aggregate that you will find in exhibit B.

Deducting the repaired guns, which are very suitable for distribution, there will exist a deficiency of arms in the arsenals, absolutely required for public service, which, I trust, will readily be supplied. Of other military weapons and materials, the number needed is detailed in exhibit C, to which I refer you.

To what extent it is advisable to distribute the public arms among the people, is a question for your decision. The repaired muskets and rifles are the only guns that I have consented should be withdrawn from the arsenals, and to this rule, unless otherwise directed by the Legislature, I generally adhere.

In order to ascertain the opinion of the military on several points of deep public interest, I addressed a circular to the major generals of the State, requesting them to convene a board of officers, in their respective divisions, for the purpose, of an-

swering certain questions. The replies of the board are herewith forwarded. Of such of their recommendations as I approve, and to which I ask your notice, a statement you will find in the paper marked M. I advise also the adoption of the following measures, viz:

1st. That with the consent of city council, the magazine be removed from its present site to the Citadel Square, within the corporate limits of Charleston.

2d. That the city council of Charleston paying one-third of the purchase money, that the lot, the property of Dr. Waring, on the South side of the Guard House square, be bought at a fair valuation, and that there be erected thereon gun carriage rooms, and a suitable building for fixed ammunition.

3d. That for the purchase of arms and munitions of war, and to meet extraordinary expenditures, \$50,000 be appropriated, and \$30,000 for the contingent fund, subject to the draft of the Governor.

AGRICULTURAL SURVEY—STATISTICS.

In a State so strictly devoted to the culture of the earth as South Carolina, it is surprising that no inquiry by the constituted authorities has ever been instituted to ascertain her agricultural resources, and indirectly her capacity for commercial and manufacturing enterprise. Of this knowledge, easily acquired, and important, if its true interests be consulted, to every class in society, probably not one member accurately possessed.

It is from this cause mainly, that only 2,500,000, of near 20,000,000 of acres, of our arable grounds, are annually in till; that to the best soils the plough is a stranger; that the intrinsic value of the pine lands, comprehending over 6,000,000 of acres, is unappreciated; and that the swamp region, of 2000 square miles, generally well adapted to the most valuable crops, continues unsubjected to a trial of its productive powers. I it, therefore, wonderful that the spirit of emigration should, at times, have been awakened; that sections of the state should retrograde, or remain stationary in population; and that a feeling of disquietness has been generated, which time, under the circumstances that exist, is incapable of subduing? If full and authentic information, for their guidance, were in possession of the people, the prominent motive being withdrawn, but few would elect to dissolve the ties that connects them with home, kindred and friends.

It is personally known to me, that there are millions of acres of fertile highland, suitable to the richest crops of the world, still in a state of nature; that where from exhaustion, extensive tracts have been abandoned, the means of resuscitation are at hand; and that an immense area of swamp and low ground, valueless in its present condition, is ready to reward the effort of ordinary industry. My late tour through the northern districts has convinced me, that whilst the railways and other roads, in the progress of construction will effect a radical change in our agricultural habits and practices, they will introduce the people of the middle and lower countries to a region unsurpassed for the mingled beauty and grandeur of its mountain scenery, purity of water, invigorating atmosphere, and for the various purposes of extensive and profitable farming, and other industrial occupations.

To ascertain with correctness the resources of a country which a benighted Being has so prodigally endowed, is among the paramount duties of the representatives of the people. Their development and improvement, when ascertained, might properly be entrusted to the people themselves.

As inseparable from the enterprise, should the wisdom of the Legislature determine to prosecute it, I recommend the careful collection of statistical information on all the branches of industry. By the possession of facts and materials, lucidly arranged and methodized, we shall be furnished with complete data as to the present state of the population, white and colored; concerning agriculture, commerce, navigation, manufactures, trades, finance, health, and indeed of whatever may be interesting or instructive to our citizens and their rulers. Under our political organization, and in the condition of society which the Southern States exhibit, the value of this knowledge will soon become manifest and duly estimated. It will tend materially to facilitate many of the most important duties of the public functionary; enable the Legislature to adjust and regulate the various interests of society, and to reduce a chaos of details, on matters requiring their action, into order and system. Nor will the people themselves be less benefited. To know all that concerns the land of their birth, is a matter of pride and deep interest. If the results of an agricultural exploration

satisfy them that South Carolina, in all the elements of strength and prosperity, occupies a higher rank among the members of our great political family, than is now generally conceded, contentment, with its inspiring concomitants, will impart increased energy to the arm, and infuse new blood into the veins.

The late geological survey having laid the foundation for the graduates of our colleges to erect a superstructure upon, concerning an important branch of knowledge, a practical and more satisfying effort should now be made to diffuse the benefits which an acquaintance with the resources of the State are so well calculated to bestow. Under this conviction, sound policy and the public good induce me to advise, that a competent person be chosen to make a thorough agricultural and physical examination of South Carolina, and to collect full statistical information on every industrial pursuit, with the addition of vital statistics; further, that the task of collecting statistical information be renewed every ten years.

RAILROADS AND OTHER PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

The railways in this State, already finished and in progress, furnish strong evidence, that the foresight and enterprise of our citizens have been awakened on this important question of industrial progress. When Greenville, Spartanburg, and Abbeville, shall have been connected with the great Western Columbia branch, it is supposed that not an avenue of communication, which can profitably be opened and maintained by steam power, will remain unestablished. To consummate a purpose so intimately connected with the prosperity of the State, I trust that the power of the Legislature will not be withheld, should assistance be required.

The three principal railroads under contract, and the lesser ones on which operations may shortly be expected to commence, with the Columbia and Hamburg Road and its branches, will exhibit, when completed, a net work of railways, equal to an extended line of 591 miles, in a territorial area of 30,000 square miles. Except the main trunk, the great work will have been executed by the planter and his slaves, and at a cost, too, probably lower than any similar undertaking in the United States. As these iron roads will soon have monopolized the public or general traffic, it becomes important, in view of local communication, that the carriage ways of the State should be rendered as efficient as practicable.

Plank Roads in localities, and a better scheme for working and keeping in permanent repair our common roads, suggest matter of no ordinary interest.

If the former be a question for the people to determine, the latter is one for legislative decision. The positive and collateral benefits of good roads are too obvious for special comment. They increase the demand for the products of industry; create new markets; develop commerce; save labor and time; diminish expense, and exercise accumulative moral and political influence on society, which has rarely been properly estimated. From long personal examination and inquiry, I have arrived at the conclusion, that our present road system is radically defective, burdensome to the people, and utterly unsuited to the end it was intended to accomplish. I therefore submit, with great deference, however, the elements of a new plan in the paper marked R, which I feel assured will be attentively considered by your Honorable Body. Substantially, it is the same that was presented to the Legislature by the Grand Jury of Newberry, in 1822.

DRAINAGE LAW.—BOARD TO REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS IN STREAMS.

I suggest the expediency of instituting a commission, consisting of scientific and practical men, to digest the general principles and details of an efficient drainage law; also, the institution of a board in each district, parish, or precinct, somewhat resembling the Board of Commissioners of Roads, to supervise and enforce the removal of those obstructions in the streams from which the general health of the country so frequently suffers.

1. The necessity for a comprehensive law of drainage arises from the inability of the proprietor, in many instances, legally to reclaim his land, or relieve himself of the malaria arising from stagnant water. It oftentimes happens, that his own premises do not admit of the fall necessary to carry off the water, and, if obliged to conduct it by the proper channel to the land of his neighbor, he is liable to an action as a nuisance. This puts it within the power of the latter, if he be obstinate, capricious, or lacking in public spirit, to defeat any measure, of whatever degree of agricultural profit, and to fasten upon a whole community a pestiferous annoyance however easy of removal.

2. The second measure is nearly as essential as the present road system. Water courses are choked up, lands overflowed, bridges carried away, and entire sections of country prostrated with disease—formerly only in the summer and fall, but latterly in the winter likewise—all arising from inattention to logs and timber, rafted down and lodged in rainy seasons. An inconsiderable portion of the tax laid to replace the bridges, would have removed the causes by which the disaster was occasioned. Perhaps a tenth part of the physicians' fees, arising from diseases generated by putrid water, would clear these streams of all the obstacles that impede their natural current. The crops lost by overflow, would, in one year, defray the expense of preventing it for a quarter of a century; not to speak of land too low and wet to be cultivated, that might be gained by removing obstructions and allowing the streams to deepen their own channels.

The adoption by the State of the scheme I have so briefly noticed, if faithfully carried out, would not only replace sterile fields and an atmosphere poisoned by malaria, with a productive soil and a healthy climate, but greatly reduce the revenue now expended by individuals in visiting other regions to avoid disease, or to renovate constitutions impaired by protracted illness.

COLONIAL HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

The papers herewith submitted, will put you in possession of very gratifying information on a deeply interesting subject. They show that a rich mass of authentic materials, illustrative of the early history of our State, and of the public character of several of her citizens, has been brought to light. The examination by a public-spirited citizen in the State offices; the discoveries in the archives of the Senate by the clerk of that body, and by the special agent of one of my predecessors, charged with the duty of ascertaining the number and character of the documents in relation to South Carolina in the Colonial Department of England, are, in my judgment, sufficient to justify the adoption of prompt measures by an enlightened Legislature, to rescue from oblivion those precious relics. I accordingly recommend, that the Governor be authorized to appoint an agent to make, in the first place, an index of the manuscripts on this subject in our State offices; and to copy as many as are becoming illegible, or may be in a decayed condition; afterwards to visit London, Paris and Madrid, for the purpose, under the auspices of the ministers of the United States, at those capitals, of a thorough inspection of historical records, concerning the State, that are known to exist, and might be found in the Colonial or other Departments of England, France and Spain, and to select and transcribe such of them as are worthy of preservation.

CENSUS OF 1849.

The returns of the Census-takers you will find in the office of Secretary of State. The accompanying abstract makes the present white population to be 290,385, an increase in the last ten years of 23,269. The increase between 1829 and 1839, was only 6174.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUE MERIDIAN LINES.

By the letters of Professor Williams and report of Capt. Parker, you will be fully informed concerning the matter entrusted to their execution. Prevented by official engagements from commencing his labors at desirable time, local difficulties greatly retarded the operations of the latter. His elaborate communication, however, is more than an equivalent for the apparent tardiness with which the task assigned him has been accomplished. In advising your acquiescence in the suggestions at the conclusion of his report, I would further recommend that, for the convenience of the surveyors in the upper districts, another point of observation, with a view to ascertain the variations of the magnetic needle, be established at Greenville.

REVISION OF THE CRIMINAL CODE.

I repeat the recommendation of one of my predecessors on this subject. A division of the labor among the Solicitors, would be a very ready mode of effecting the object. The punishment for certain offences is not only indeterminate, but unjustifiably severe. Not less than 12 crimes are punishable with death in South Carolina.

If, in your opinion, the scheme of a Penitentiary would be a wise and salutary modification of our present system, I would respectfully suggest, whether the absolute requirement of all the funds at command, to put the State in a proper condition of defence, does not present an obstacle in the way of establishing such

an institution, at this time, not easily surmounted.

DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS.

He who is elevated to a station of honor, in the gift of the State, is morally, as well as legally, bound, faithfully, to discharge its functions. This can only be done in person. If aid be needed, let it be procured; but to constitute an assistant the chief, and to devolve upon him the burden of the office, is to shift the responsibility upon a stranger, not elected by the Legislature, nor amenable to law. An anxious desire to fulfil my obligations, as Chief Magistrate, has, from the apparent neglect of others, repeatedly placed me in an embarrassing situation. Under the constitution, the powers of the Governor of South Carolina are very limited, yet, by law, they are made so numerous, that to execute them with fidelity requires the unwearied exercise of all his energies. But exclusive devotion to his official engagements will be found weak and insufficient, unless the officers, especially those connected with his department, are always at their posts. It is worthy of legislative inquiry, whether a certain long continued practice in several public stations, the result probably of inadequate compensation, is not operating injuriously on the public interests.

To other matters chiefly of domestic concern, I shall claim your attention in a few days.

WHITEMARSH B. SEABROOK.

From the South Carolinian.

WINDING UP THE BANK.

As the proposition to wind up the bank will evoke much discussion, we think it but fair to the public to publish the bill which has been reported to the two Houses by the special joint committee of the Legislature, at this session, in accordance with the recommendation of the Governor.

Whereas, The General Assembly hath determined that it is inexpedient to renew the Charter of the Bank of the State of South Carolina: And whereas, Such determination renders it wise and prudent that the affairs of the bank should be placed in a state of preparation for the approaching end of its existence:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives now met and sitting in General Assembly, That instead of the present number of presidents and directors of the said bank and its branches, there shall be elected by the General Assembly, as heretofore, one president and four directors, who shall go into office at the expiration of the present term of the president and directors of the Bank at Charleston; and the president shall receive the same salary as heretofore; and each of the directors shall receive a salary from the bank of one thousand.

Sec. 2. The new board of directors shall conduct the business and affairs of the bank as heretofore, excepting that they shall make no new loans of money; that they shall reduce accordingly the number of salaried officers at the bank and its branches; and may, substitute an agent, one or more, in place of the branches, taking care to require ample security wherever funds are entrusted, and giving such notice as they may think reasonable to such officers as may be dispensed with, to enable them to find other employment.

Sec. 3. The board of directors shall collect the business paper, together with all bills of exchange, and they shall apply the same, together with the cash assets, stocks and other convertible of the bank, to meet the engagements of the bank and of the State, as they may accrue; and as to all other debts due to the bank, the board are authorized to extend the time of payment to any debtor desiring it, to a term of years not exceeding ten; provided ample security be taken for the payment of the debt and legal interest, (the interest annually,) and the principal in not less than equal instalments, in each year, of such extended term, and in case such security be not given the debt shall forthwith be collected in due course of law.

Sec. 4. The board of directors shall apply any funds which may remain in their hands, to the purchase and extinguishment of the foreign debt of the State, whenever the same may be had at or under par; and if the same cannot be had, then they shall invest the said funds, for the time, upon the security of stocks of this State, and shall apply to the General Assembly for further directions in the premises.

OUR DELEGATION.—Our Washington correspondent informs us that, as far as he could learn, no member of the South Carolina delegation was present at the caucus to nominate officers for Congress, — Carolinian.